

REMARKS

In the specification, the paragraph providing the cross reference to related applications has been amended to indicate that U.S. patent application serial number 09/480,451, filed on January 10, 2000, has now issued as US Patent No. 6,641,853.

In response to the Restriction Requirement set forth in the Office Action mailed April 29, 2005, Applicants elect the invention of Group II: claims 9-12 and 16 without traverse. Claims directed to the non-elected subject matter, claims 1-8, 13-15 and 17 and 18 have been cancelled. Applicants reserve the right to pursue these non-elected claims in future divisional applications.

The claims are believed to be in condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully request allowance of the claims, and passage of the application to issuance.

Respectfully submitted,



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